



### **Announcing the WorkLife Partnership**

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The WorkLife Partnership is a *public-private partnership* dedicated to decreasing poverty in a whole new way - directly through Colorado employers. Started in Summer 2009 as the Employer of Choice Initiative, WorkLife coordinates with private employers to help their employees keep their jobs and keep those employers' operations productive.

WorkLife's Navigators help employees find solutions to problems they are having at work or at home so they can keep working. If an employee's unreliable transportation, eviction notice, or stress at home is keeping them from getting to work on time and being productive at work, WorkLife helps to get them back on track with supportive services. Services may include referring clients to a non-profit or governmental agency that can help.

WorkLife coordinates with employers, but maintains confidentiality in with employees. WorkLife's role is to help the employee, effectively helping the employer.

WorkLife is a partner of Jefferson County Human Services (JCHS), and will leverage public resources of the Statewide Strategic Use Fund (SSUF) Grant and JCHS's Career & Family Support Services Division staff to help those on government assistance become self-sufficient.

When employees keep their job, it reduces company turnover; quality workers stay with the organization. This, in turn, allows for continuous improvement, customer satisfaction, and ultimately increased productivity and profitability for the employer. It's a win-win for everyone.

WorkLife Partnership is in a trial period until April with seven employers. By partnering with WorkLife, these seven employers have demonstrated their 1) value for their employees, 2) desire to increase retention, productivity, and profitability, and 3) desire to provide collaborative training to their employees to enhance employment. Services for these companies are free and confidential. Starting in May, the Partnership will be open to interested employers for a membership fee.

Companies partnering in the trial include KONG Co, Loveland Ski Area, DSC Window Fashions, Lutheran Medical Center, Big Sky Outdoor Advertising, Ameristar Casino & Hotel, and Aerotek.

JeffCo Human Services "borrowed" this successful model from The SOURCE in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is excited to implement the WorkLife Partnership for employers in Jefferson, Gilpin, and Clear Creek counties.

The WorkLife Partnership's goal is to sustain and replicate the model across the state through attracting more employers to the partnership and gaining further private financial support. The model has proven that private-public partnerships work to reduce dependence, increase self-sufficiency, stabilize workforces, and increase employee retention.

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